LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 6, 1997/Vaisakha 16, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri G. Yallamanda Reddy.

Shri G. Yallamanda Reddy was a Member of Third Lok Sabha representing Markapur Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh during 1962-67.

Earlier, Shri Reddy was a Member of erstwhile Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952-53 and Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1953 to 1962.

A political and social worker, Shri Reddy had special interest in the spread of education. He was a member of the Senate of Sri Venkateswara University, Triupati during 1960-62.

A man of letters, Shri Reddy wrote many books and articles in English and Telugu. 'Devolution and General Crisis of Capitalism' and 'International Monetary Fund and Developing Countries' are some of his important publications.

Shri G.Yallamanda Reddy passed away on 27th April, 1997 at Hyderabad at the age of 74 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Foreign Nationals

*421. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign nationals living illegally in the country State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to deport them to their respective countries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As the powers under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identify, detect and deport foreign nationals residing illegally in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations, such data is not Centrally maintained. The Government is, however, aware of the problem of foreign nationals who enter India surreptitiously from neighbouring countries and are residing illegally in various parts of the country. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations to intensify efforts to identify and deport such foreign nationals and also to sensitize the local population about the magnitude and seriousness of the problem.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true the Govt. are aware of the fact that many persons who come to India from Pakistan and other countries on visa do not return to their respective countries. The Governments contention is that they have directed the State Governments also to identify such people, as this is the duty of the States. He has also stated in his answer that we have again issued guidelines to them so that they could excellerate this work. I want to know from the Minister whether he has received any such information from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan that hundreds of Pakistani citizens are illegally staying in those states and they have furnished this information to the Centre? I want to know whether such people are also living in the border areas of Rajasthan and in Raipur, Indore, and Bhopal in M.P.? Whether it is time that the Central Government not only aware of the fact that the Pakistani staying here illegally are involved in suspicious activities but has also been apprised to their actual numbers.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, the question refers to foreigners particularly those who have come from Pakistan and are staying illegally in this country now because their visas have expired and they do not have any other genuine or legal travel documents or permits. These are the people whom we are trying to detect and unless they are detected, no action can be taken against them. Dr. Pandey is correct that these people frequently stay on here after the expiry of their visas and they have friends, relatives and so on in different parts of the country with whom they go and stay. They get up and it is very difficult generally to recognise them or identify them.

The States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan about which he is particularly interested have not specifically informed the Central Government as to the number of such people whom they estimate as may be staying on illegally in those States. Obviously, they do not definitely know about them. Otherwise, they would be able to apprehend and identify them and action would be taken, like deporting them or taking any other legal action. They have not given us the details of those people whom they suspect to be staying illegally in their respective States.

[Translation]

What was your third Question?

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY : I also wanted to know whether some of those persons, who had been issued visa, were having criminal background and the Central Govt. as well as our embassy was aware of them?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : No, there is no information as such but well there may be such persons among them.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : If you say 'Rah Sakte Hain'. It means that you are allowing them. What do you mean by 'Rah Sakte Hain' you would allow them to stay.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have already explained in the first part of my answer that these people have to be detected. Otherwise, where is the question of allowing them? If you know as to where they are and who they are, they can be detected, then there is no question of allowing them. They will be apprehended or deported or will be kept in prison for some time. If you cannot detect them, then what can we do?

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Who will enquire into it?

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY : I want to draw the attention of Hon. Minister towards the Unstarred Question No. 3437 in which it has been answered that as per the information furnished by the State Govt. and by the Administration of Union Territories the Pakistani Nationals were given long term visa facility for their stay in India. Out of them eighteen people have the criminal background. This is the answer given in Lok Sabha but you say that you are unaware of it. I am sorry to ask you, whether this is not the duty of the Centre to identify those people who are involved in criminal activities and creating trouble and anarchy in various States when they live. No doubt you have issued directives to the State Govts. but you have to take stringent action otherwise situation is such that they have been issued ration cards, and they have started living here permanently. Whether the Centre will do something on its own and take action in this regard or leave things on the State saying that it's not their responsibility?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : These powers were delegated between the Union Territories and State Govts. as per the law. They were demanding powers and these powers were delegated to them. It is true, as the Hon. Members has said, that some of the State Govts. and some of the Union Territories are not working properly. In such circumstances we are making our best endeavour through our agencies to make this thing more effective.

Our problem is that those unidentified foreigners who are living illegally may belong to different nations with different purposes. They do not belonging to Pakistan only. Their population is approximately 10 million whereas our population is 100 million. It is possible that one out of ten people might have infiltrated. We are trying to identify them. I can give you the number of such persons who have been identified so far and tell you as to what action has been initiated against them.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I am really surprised and shocked. The Home Minister of our country is telling very casually that about ten million foreigners from Bangladesh, Pakistan, etc., are staying in our country.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is a legacy of the Congress.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Everything is a legacy of the Congress. When you come, you take care of it.

'Illegal' means what? One interpretation is, to come with a visa, not to go away and stay on in the country. The second interpretation is, to come in an illegal manner through the borders by managing secretly or by paying something to the people responsible at the borders and stay on.

Now, the issue before the country is the IMDT Act and the Foreigners Act all over the country, other than Assam. Under the Act of 1946, the onus is on the police to prove that he is a foreigners. The IMDT Act is also like that. But the Foreigners Act has given the responsibility to the person against whom the complaint has been made.

I had the opportunity to work in the Ministry of Home Affairs. There was a system that when a man came with a visa to this country, after 15-20 days, he had to report to the nearest police station so that we could know his movement. Has it been withdrawn? If it has been withdrawn, then, the Minister has rightly said that he has no sense of knowledge about what is there. I want to know if the Government has got some system whereby they could monitor when a person comes in this country and goes back and whether he still stands for the figure of ten million. Is it an off-the-cuff remark or is it based on facts? Then, it will definitely be a very very serious thing. We need a discussion on it. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I would welcome a discussion any time to go into further details. So, we can arrange for such a discussion. But what I want to say is that whether, during the time when Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was in the

Ministry of Home Affairs, there was an effective monitoring system as he seems to claim.

Visa is for a limited period. Anybody who entered the country with a visa, by being required to report at the police station and all that, the Government was able to keep a check. So, I would like to know whether - as far as Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev's information went - at that time, the people who were being checked like this, they were no longer allowed to remain ilegally in the country. The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations are required to report regularly to the Centre whatever data and information they have collected on this point.

According to that, 40,949 foreign nationals - at the end of 1976 - were staying illegally in India. They included 29,239 Bangladeshis and 11,005 Pakistanis. Now, our intelligence sources - I have to rely to some extent naturally on our intelligence sources - have further reported that according to their own information approximately 10 million Bangladeshis - Shri Santosh Mohan Dev was also in-charge of the Intelligence Branch at one point of time are residing in this country somewhere or other illegally. Out of them, 29,239 - obviously for the purpose of this calculation during this year - have been identified by them. So, they have given a precise figure. The rest of them are obviously not identified and nobody knows where they are. They are trying to locate them.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the infilteration of foreigners in our country have increased so rapidly that gives an impression that our country is like an abandoned inn where whosoever can come and stay.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, does the Hon. Minister know as to what is the population of Bangladesh? He is answering in Parliament. It is very sad.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He is trying to protect the Bangladeshi infiltrators like this.

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in a country like America and Canada, whose population are manifold less than our and whose land area is much more than that of us, not a single illegal entry goes unnoticed and they apprehend him. This is the sorry state of our country and the vote of politics that resulted in, as the Hon. Home Minister has said in the House that as per their intelligence Agencies more than crores of Bangladeshis have already infilterated into India. Inspite of knowing the facts that India is such a country, where starvation, unemployment and povery are common phenomena still the Union Govt. have not taken any tangible steps in this regard and as the Hon. Home Minister has made a statement and he has also mentioned in the written reply that States should take care of this aspect. I would like to ask two questions from the Hon. Minister. Perhaps he is aware of the fact that the Bangladeshi infiltrators in Bengal have formed an association and demanded certain facilities from the Government. The West Bengal Government certainly know about this development. You also may have got this information through your intelligence agencies. The way these infiltrators are getting protection as vote banks, the days are not far when they would become a majority in this country. Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev ji please don't laugh. When you were in power the trend of infiltration gained momentum and it disturbed the balance in Tripura so it is not a matter to be taken lightly. Please take it seriously and rising about the politics of vote-bank, think about the dangers it has posed to the borders of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask two questions only Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has made a mention regarding the I.M.D.T. in Assam, due to the Act is not being properly implemented and as a result of that an effective action to throw out the infiltrators cannot be taken. My first question in this regard is whether any amendment in this regard is under the consideration of the Government? Secondly, when the Government has admitted that there are large number of infiltrators are in the country then what are the steps being taken by the Government to deport them from here and the directions in this regard being issued to the State Governments?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Regarding I.M.D.T. Act, whatever is said is correct. The previous Prime Minister had also admitted that very few people have been identified and under this Act as illegal immigrants and deported. Then it was said that this Act is not effective enough hence it should be withdrawn. In other parts of the country some other Act is in force. This act is in force only in Assam. So it was said that this Act should be repealed. All the parties discussed this matter. The representatives of all the parties participated in this meeting. It was noticed that people had different opinions. Some people said that this Act is not relevant, so it should be repealed, but others pressed that it should be enacted. Some people feared that if this act is repealed then atrocities would be committed on them. So the Government of India has not taken any final decision in this regard. This question needs further discussion .....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I had asked another question. It was regarding the directions issued to the State Governments to tackle the problem of large number of illegal immigrants of about two crores, a fact that has been accepted by the Government.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have already told you that this is the situation as per the report of Intelligence agencies. You should also understand how difficult it is to check infiltration of such a large number of people. .....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Then what for are you in the Chair? You should resign from your post.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am trying to give a reply to your questions. If you don't want to listen, I would not speak.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I am all attentive to listen to you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : One does not have to stand to listen something.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : All right, I take my seat.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Our border is a very vulnerable one. It is very easy to cross the borders illegally. Secondly, it is very difficult to identify the infiltration on the basis of spoken language and their features, as these are very similar to those of the living in our side. It is also a fact that the people deployed for checking such infiltration often let them get in after taking money. Corruption is rampant in the whole country and the borders are no exception.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the Minister is admitting that BSF is taking the money.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him complete.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Shri Dasmunsi, I did not mention BSF. I said, those who are on the border manning the check posts and all that. They may be BSF or other people.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That means, not only BSF, but the others are also taking the money.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not know why Shri Mahajan is showing surprise!

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I must appreciate that this Government is very very transparent.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There are a number of cases, I can tell you, where there have been complaints about BSF authorities. In some cases representations have been sent to them about some of the people who on the border indulge in these malpractices. Those cases are being inquired into and in some of the cases action has also been taken.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can do one thing, you can at least replace the persons indulged in such malpractices..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The B.S.F. personnel posted in Bengal often belong to Haryana, Punjab or Gujarat .....*(Interruptions)* the Jawans are sent from there.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The personnel hailing from Bihar can be deployed there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Those people do not understand Bangla language at all and they have to deal with the village people therefore they are unable to understand each other. We are trying to find out some solution in this regard.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, our Home Minister has revealed a very horrible fact which frightened me a lot. The country would be frightened to know that ten million foreigners are residing illegally here.

I would like to know the definition of foreigners living illegally in our country. Who are they? Those people who were born in Bangladesh and migrated to this country and later on they had children, are you including all these people or does it show the number of the infiltrators in actual. For example our Prime Minister was also born in Pakistan, the President of BJP was also born in Pakistan. Either Shri Dasmunsi or his father was born in Bangladesh. Does the figures quoted above include such persons or purely include those people who do not possess any passport. Please answer my query.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : According to the definition given in the law the people who are not Indian citizens are called foreign citizens. We have no other criteria in this regard.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Can you furnish details about 25,000 out of one crore in two months period?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called the next number.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I would like to know whether the Government of India has become totally helpless to curb the activities of foreigners; if it is so than this Government has no right to continue and it is better that it should resign. If it is not so, than what corrective steps, directives or time-bound programme the Government is going to suggest to all those States where these foreigners are staying?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I do not know what is meant by saying, 'curb the activities'. We are certainly curbing their activities. We are keeping a watch.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : What are you doing to stop them from coming into our country?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You should say that. This is not the only country in the world where a large number of foreigners have come and settled down. I think you know that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : But it is not to that extent.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What I am saying is, you should not assume - and I am not prepared to assume - that all those people who come and stay here illegally after their visas have expired are necessarily our enemies. They are generally poor people looking for jobs, employment and all that. We have seen many lakhs of people who have gone out to other countries in search of jobs. They are not treated as enemies there. So, what I want to say is, as far as their activities, while they stay here, are concerned if there are any anti-national, subversive or hostile activities, those activities have got to be curbed. Whatever agencies and methods we have got at our disposal, are certainly working very hard. We have apprehended a large number of people. I have already explained, their entry has not been checked to the extent it should have been.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I wanted to know whether the Minister has suggested any time-bound programme to different States to identify the foreigners and deport them.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member, it is a very important question. All the members want to express their views on this issue. Six Supplementaries have already been asked in place of five. We have already spent twenty five minutes on this discussion, so we may opt for half an hour discussion on it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In the begining itself I had welcomed the discussion. Half an hour is not enough for this subject. We should spare some more time for discussion on this subject. A single Member speaks at least for half an hour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am passing on to the next question.

[Translation]

Bonus to Farmers

*422. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide bonus on per quintal support price of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers likely to be benefited as a result thereof;

(d) the total amount disbursed after the announcement; and

(e) the extent to which the FCI has been able to procure more foodgrains after the said announcement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e) A Statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has announced a Central bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal of wheat in addition to the minimum support price of Rs. 415/- per quintal for the period 17th March to 10th June, 1997 which is being paid to the farmers simultaneously.

(c) All the farmers who sell wheat to the Government agencies at the price fixed by the Government will benefit from the decision to pay bonus.

(d) As on 5.5.97 the total quantity procured was 28.09 lakh tonnes. At the rate of Rs. 475/- per quintal, the total amount which the farmers would receive is of the order of about Rs. 1333 crores.

(e) Out of 28.09 lakh tonnes, about 5.07 lakh tonnes of wheat were procured by the FCI. All of this was procured subsequent to 9.4.96 - the date on which the orders regarding bonus were issued.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. The question of wheat is linked with the question of livlihood of farmers and poor as well. Government has fixed Rs. 415 as support price for Wheat. Afterwards it declared a bonus of Rs. 60. As far as I know, it has happenned for the past time. Although the farmers did not accept it. Today the Government wants to purchase wheat at a price of Rs. 475 per quintal while its market price ranges from Rs. 550 to 650 per quintal. Farmers are selling the wheat at the rate of Rs. 550-650 per quintal. Recently farmers had organised a rally at Chandigarh in which lakhs of farmers from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana had participated. They unanimously made a demand .....*[Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak in brief.